NREGA

1004. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reports prepared by the senior officials of the Ministry on first hand experience, on the status of programme implementation for National Rural Employment Guarantee Act reveal that at least 30 districts from different States do not present encouraging results;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons put forward in the reports;

(c) what steps are being taken to improve the position in these districts; and

(d) whether the State Government have issued any instructions or guidelines for its successful implementation and if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) NREGA is a new programme which involves a number of legal processes like registration, verification, issue of job cards etc. and pace of implementation varies in different areas. The main reasons for comparatively slow progress in certain areas were elections in some States like Bihar, West Bengal. Tamil Nadu and Kerala, inadequate availability of staff and need for training

(c) The progress of NREGA is being regularly reviewed with States States have been requested to provide adequate staff and arrange training. Separate additional funds have been given for training. Training of Trainers programmes have been arranged by NIRD Hyderabad. Progress has considerably improved. Out of 7328551 persons who have demanded employment, 6886729 have been provided, which is 93.97%.

(d) Operational Guidelines have been prepared by this Ministry for implementation of the Act and copies of the Guidelines have been provided to all the blocks in a district for their guidance. Besides, instructions have been issued by the Central Government from time to time for effective implementation of the Act by the States.

Low-cost loans for rural housing

1005. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of rural households living in mud (Kutcha) homes in India;

(b) whether Government has any scheme to extend low-cost housing

loans in rural areas to promote conversion of these mud homes to brick and mortar (pucca) homes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) According to the information made available by 2001 Census, 11.651 million households are living in unserviceable temporary houses in rural areas.

(b) to (d) Under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), the Ministry of Rural Development is providing financial assistance amounting to Rs. 25,000/- per unit in plain areas and Rs. 27,500/- in hilly/difficult areas, to the BPL rural poor for construction of a new dwelling unit or for replacement of an existing unserviceable temporary house. However, the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) can utilize up to 20% of the total funds available under IAY, for upgradation of existing unserviceable temporary house or under Credit-cum-Subsidy Scheme for construction of a house with credit from banks/financial institutions. Rural households having an annual income of upto Rs. 32,000/- can avail of the facility under Credit-cum-Subsidy Scheme. Ceiling of subsidy under the scheme is Rs. 12,500/- per household and the balance amount has to be arranged by way of loan not exceeding Rs. 50,000/- in each case from banks/financial institutions.

Motorable roads in hilly and tribal villages

†1006. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several roads in Almora District in Uttaranchal are 10-15 years old but still they have not been metalled and made motorable;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of roads which would be metalled and made motorable in that district in the year 2006 under plan for linking of villages in hilly and tribal areas with roads; and

(d) by when the Kutcha road from Dwarahaat to Doula in that district would be made motorable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Development implements the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana